

**New River Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
755 Roanoke Street  
Christiansburg, VA 24073**

**Minutes**

**June 5, 2014**

**MEMBERS**

PRESENT:	Craig Meadows	-Montgomery County
	Anne McClung	-Town of Blacksburg
	Steve Ross	-Town of Blacksburg (Blacksburg Transit)
	Michael Sutphin	-Town of Blacksburg
	Adam Carpenetti	-Town of Christiansburg
	Mike Barger	-Town of Christiansburg
	Steve Mouras	-Virginia Tech
	Kevin Byrd	-NRV PDC
	Danny Wilson	-Pulaski County
	Jimmy Quesenberry	-Radford University
	Jim Hurt	-City of Radford
	Chris Arabia	-VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation
	Dan Brugh	-NRV MPO
	Randal Gwinn	-Recording Secretary
	Thomas DiGiulian	-VDoT

ABSENT:	Rob Cary	-VDoT
	Tammye Davis	-FHWA
	Ranny O'Dell	-Pulaski County
	Bruce Brown	-City of Radford
	Gary Heinline	-Pulaski Transit
	Josh Baker	-Radford Transit
	Fritz Streff	-New River Community College
	Annette Perkins	-Montgomery County
	Tony Cho	-Federal Transit Administration-Region 111
	Michael St. Jean	-VA Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority

**OTHERS**

PRESENT:	Richard McCoy	-Virginia Tech
	Tony Nicolo	-New River Community College
	Brian Booth	-Radford Transit
	Donald Chapman	-City of Radford
	David Clarke	-VDoT
	Michael Gray	-VDoT

## **DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Meadows declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Craig began the meeting by asking to hear a motion to approve the proposed meeting agenda.

**On a motion by Anne McClung seconded by Jim Hurt and carried unanimously, the proposed meeting agenda was approved.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 1, 2014 MEETING**

Craig asked for comments on or corrections to the meeting minutes from the May 1, 2014 Policy Board meeting. Hearing none he then called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**On a motion by Danny Wilson seconded by Michael Sutphin and carried unanimously, the minutes dated May 1, 2014 were approved.**

## **PUBLIC ADDRESS**

Mr. Don Chapman, Citizen of Christiansburg, addressed the Board concerning the proposed rerouting of the Huckleberry Trail through the Tall Oaks Subdivision in Christiansburg. The route being considered by Christiansburg would possibly necessitate the removal of several mature trees, interruption of traffic flow for 248 residents and also enclose Mr. Chapman's home on three sides therefore he is seeking assistance in convincing Christiansburg to seek another route that avoids the subdivision entirely.

Having heard Mr. Chapman's request for assistance Craig explained that although the Policy Board is not the proper group to approach on the matter we will pass all of the pertinent information submitted by Mr. Chapman to the Town of Christiansburg for their consideration.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Approval of Final Report of the Transit Funding Split Study**

Dan summarized the work that has been performed in preparation of the final report on splitting the FTA 5307 Transit Funding and asked for the Policy Board to approve the report so that it can be forwarded on to DRPT.

Following Dan's comments Craig asked for discussion on the final report. Hearing none he then called for a motion on the suggested resolution. Michael Sutphin moved for approval of the resolution accepting the final report and Adam Carpenetti seconded the motion. Craig then asked for discussion on the resolution and hearing none he called for a vote. The resolution passed by a unanimous vote and follows in its entirety:

***New River Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization***

***June 5, 2014***

**Resolution accepting the final report prepared by KFH Group on how to split transit funding, FTA 5307, in the MPO between the two transit providers eligible for funding.**

**On a motion by Michael Sutphin, seconded by Adam Carpenetti, and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) supplied funding for the MPO to hire a consultant to review and make recommendations on an appropriate method to split funding between the two transit providers in the MPO, and

WHEREAS, the need for this study is a result of reduction of funding for the two transit providers brought about by the change of Radford Transit from rural to urban and the change in the funding formula that VDRPT uses to distribute Federal funding (5307), and

WHEREAS, KFH Group has conducted a very thorough and transparent study and has worked with the MPO Study Committee to arrive at a distribution that was unanimously accepted by the Study Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley MPO accepts the final report from KFH Group dated May 28, 2014.

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F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

**B. Approval of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Dan explained the necessity for updating the TIP to reflect information pertinent to the period of 2015 -18 as our current 2012-15 TIP is expiring. The 2015-18 TIP has been developed using information from VDOT, DRPT, the Transit Operators and the VA Tech Executive Airport. The TAC has reviewed the draft document and it has been advertised in the local newspapers, on our website and by email to interested parties and government review agencies. No comments were received and the TAC now recommends approval by the Policy Board. We also need to do our annual transportation planning process self-certification at this time. Both suggested resolutions are included in the meeting materials.

Following Dan's comments Craig asked for questions or discussion on the TIP document and self-certification. Jim Hurt pointed out that the FTA continues to refer to our organization by the name of Blacksburg MPO and requested that the Board direct the Executive Director to contact the FTA and have this corrected. Craig agreed to have this oversight addressed.

Craig then asked for further discussion on the TIP. Hearing none he called for a motion on the suggested resolution for approval of the 2015-18 TIP. Anne McClung moved for approval and Danny Wilson seconded the motion. No further discussion occurred and Craig called for a vote. The resolution passed by unanimous vote and follows in its entirety:

***New River Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization***

***June 5, 2014***

**Resolution Approving the FY15-18 TIP**

**On a motion by Anne McClung, seconded by Danny Wilson and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, a final draft of the Transportation Improvement Program has been prepared by the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization of proposed transportation improvements for fiscal years 2015 thru 2018; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of transportation projects in the Transportation Improvement Program is a condition of federal participation in the funding of that project; and

WHEREAS, an approved Transportation Improvement Program is required to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the draft Transportation Improvement Program has been advertised for public comment and posted on the MPO website and no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the draft FY2015-18 TIP has been sent to the MPO Interested Parties and Governmental Regulatory Agencies and no comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed this document and has recommended that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization approve the Transportation Improvement Program for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization does hereby approve the FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

J. Dan Brugh  
Executive Director

The next item needing action was the annual self-certification renewal. Craig asked if anyone had questions or comments pertinent to the suggested resolution and hearing none called for a motion on the resolution. Mayor Barger moved to approve and Michael Sutphin seconded the motion. Craig then called for a vote. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote and follows in its entirety:

**New River Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
755 Roanoke Street  
Christiansburg, VA 24073**

**June 5, 2014**

**METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS SELF-CERTIFICATION**

**On a motion by Mike Barber, seconded by Michael Sutphin, and carried unanimously,**

BE IT RESOLVED, The Virginia Department of Transportation and the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Blacksburg urbanized area(s) hereby certify that the transportation planning process for FY15-18 is addressing the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable regulations in accordance with 23 CFR 450.334:

- (1) 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
- (2) In nonattainment and maintenance areas, sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
- (3) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
- (4) 49 U.S.C. 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
- (5) Section 1101(b) of the SAFETEA-LU (Pub. L. 109-59) and 49 CFR part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in USDOT funded projects;
- (6) 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
- (7) The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.* ) and 49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38;
- (8) The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
- (9) Section 324 of title 23 U.S.C. regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
- (10) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR part 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

New River Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization

State Department of Transportation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

F. Craig Meadows  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Chairman  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **C. Acceptance of Final Report for the North Franklin Street Study**

Dan reported that the second public meeting had good attendance and a number of comments on the recommendations made as a result of the study were received with the majority being positive. The study is now complete and the TAC has reviewed the final report and recommends approval by the Policy Board.

Craig asked for discussion on the report. Mayor Barber asked if a reduction of the speed limit on North Franklin Street to 35 mph was considered during the study. Dan replied that although discussed, an official speed study was not done because the accident data did not reveal any speed related incidents. The majority of the incidents were collisions due to motorists improperly pulling out into the path of oncoming traffic.

There was no further discussion and Craig asked for a motion on the resolution. Michael Sutphin moved for acceptance of the resolution and Adam Carpenetti & Mayor Barber provided a second. Craig again asked for further discussion on the item and hearing none called for a vote. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote and follows in its entirety:

## ***New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization***

***June 5, 2014***

**Resolution accepting the final report prepared by Whitman, Requardt, and Associates, LLC for the North Franklin Street Corridor Study.**

**On a motion by Michael Sutphin, seconded by Adam Carpenetti, and carried unanimously,**

WHEREAS, the Town of Christiansburg requested the MPO to conduct a corridor study of North Franklin Street between Cambria Street and Independence Boulevard for operational and safety enhancements, and

WHEREAS, a study was conducted by the MPO On Call Consultant Whitman, Requardt, and Associates LLC, and

WHEREAS, a draft final report has been developed by the Consultant and reviewed by the TAC, and

WHEREAS, the TAC recommends approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New River Valley MPO accepts the final report for the North Franklin Street Corridor Study dated May 28, 2014.

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F. Craig Meadows, Chairman

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**There were no items of old business needing action.**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. VDOT Report – Tommy DiGiulian**

Tommy gave an update of VDOT projects ongoing in the area:

- The overpass bridges on Rt. 114 near the New River Mall are going up and the project is due for completion this fall.
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- The New River Bridge on Rt. 114 at Peppers Ferry is now open. There still remaining work to get done however the project will be complete sometime this summer.
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- The New River Bridge on Rt. 61 at Narrows is complete except for demolition of the old bridge. The project could possibly be completed in sometime in July.
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- The work on widening Rt. 603 in Elliston should begin soon, a preconstruction meeting will be held next week. The road will be closed for close to nine months so arrangements for emergency services on both ends of the road are being made. Actual construction may begin as early as this fall.
- The preconstruction meeting for Research Center Drive in Blacksburg will be held next week. That project is slated for completion in May of 2015.
- The South Gate Interchange on RT. 460 will go out to advertisement in December of this year provided that the final VDOT Six Year Plan reveals that full funding has been restored.
- The Secretary has stated that funding for the Exit 118 Park & Ride lot relocation will be included in VDOT 's Six Year Plan and sites are being considered in hopes of selecting one soon.
- Right of Way acquisition will occur for the replacement of the Northbound New River Bridge on I-81 near Radford this fall and the project is slated for advertisement in the summer or fall of 2016. We are still proceeding with Right of Way acquisition and planning for two bridges in hopes that funding will be identified for the Southbound Bridge by the advertisement date however as it now stands we will only be able to replace the one. Project replacement funding will be effected by the restoration of funds to the South Gate Interchange and the addition of the Exit 118 Park & Ride relocation however no other projects are anticipated to lose funding due to these adjustments.
- Completion of the I-81 Tier 2 Environmental Study has been slowed somewhat by extra requests for growth rates and traffic projections yet we still anticipate completion sometime this fall.
- The Rt. 773 Lafayette Bridge replacement should be under way by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The I-81 over Rt. 8 bridge replacements is slated for advertisement in 2018 and design work continues to go forward on it. Some funding yet remains to be found for this project.

### **B. Update on MPO Bicycle / Pedestrian Master Plan – Kevin Byrd**

The process of completing the plan is nearing a close. A public meeting was held last week and attendance was good, several comments were received including those that Mr. Chapman shared with us concerning the Huckleberry Trail at the start of today's meeting. Mr. Chapman's concerns were noted and will come into play when we consider options for the Huckleberry Trail. The use of DRPT's guidelines for multi-modal planning has introduced some interesting opportunities for collaboration with

other modes of transit that typically haven't been included in bicycle / pedestrian planning before. We've a bit more work to be done however it's hoped that viewing the options through a different lens will result in a more valuable Master Plan. We are also making ourselves available to present to any groups who are interested in learning more about the work being done, contact us and we will set up a date to present. We hope to finalize our work in the next month or so.

### C. Transit Study Projects Update

Dan gave an update on the five projects currently being managed by Eric Olsen:

- The multi-modal operations plan for Blacksburg Transit should be completed soon as they are formulating recommendations now.
- The RFP for the regional cost model update for Blacksburg Transit was issued in May and it's anticipated that the work should be completed in September.
- The RFP for the VA Tech Transit/Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan for Campus and neighboring areas was due to go out on June 2<sup>nd</sup> or shortly thereafter. The completion date is expected to be December of 2014.
- The Regional GIS Transit Mapping project has been extended through August. The available GIS data has been collected from area transit operators and is being consolidated into a sharable database that anyone can access for transit route and stop information. The PDC will probably serve as host for the content going forward and interested parties can place a link to the data on their own websites.
- The Regional Connection Study has been awaiting the results of the KFH study on regional coordination which we now have. We will now build on the KFH study results. Eric will be formulating a RFP for the study and we hope to see completion of the work by this time next year.

### D. Planning Projects Update

- Public meetings for the Western Perimeter Road Study are completed and WRA is awaiting the return of the students before conducting traffic counts. Completion date is anticipated in late September or October.
- The work on updating the 2035 Long Range Plan to 2040 status is ongoing with WRA working with the Planning Staff of various localities to compile necessary data. Completion of the effort is required by November of 2015. The project work is on schedule at this time.

Anne asked for advice on how localities should coordinate submission of study requests going forward. Dan replied that it would be good for any requests to be submitted by no later than this fall in order to incorporate them into the UPWP next year rather than have to create a special study category and a subsequent UPWP update later in the year. Generally the TAC starts development of the UPWP in February so if a request is submitted well in advance of February it allows adequate time to gather information on the cost and scope of work prior to the TAC the review of requests in February.



**E. Visit by Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation**

Dan reported that Mr. Donohue wants to meet with the Policy Board in the near future, primarily to go over what role the MPO will have in the prioritization process going forward. We are currently awaiting word on when Mr. Donohue will be available, if not for our next meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> then hopefully the August meeting.

**F. Other Items**

Craig asked if anyone had an objection to moving our July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to July 10<sup>th</sup> in order to avoid the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and hopefully accommodate Mr. Donohue. No one did so the next meeting will be on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is July 10, 2014 at 2:00 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further agenda items to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

**F. Craig Meadows, Chairman**